



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

# News Release

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OMAHA – Two information meetings are scheduled to discuss efforts by two federal agencies to protect endangered species in the Missouri River basin.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Army Corps of Engineers are consulting under provisions of the Endangered Species Act to develop ways to protect piping plovers, interior least terns and pallid sturgeon. The construction of dams, levees and river control structures has contributed to the loss of habitat important to these birds and fish.

The first meeting will be held on Thursday, May 11, in Nebraska City, Neb., at the Lied Conference Center, Steinhart Room, 2700 Sylvan Road, beginning at 7 p.m. The second will be Saturday, May 13, in Blair, Neb., at the Dana College Hall of Science, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Representatives from the Corps and Service will describe the Endangered Species Act, the current consultation process, schedule, and the listed species. The presentations will be followed by a question and answer period.

The agencies have been consulting informally for 10 years. The formal consultation began April 1 to study the current water control manual for the Missouri River dams, the navigation and bank stabilization project from Sioux City, Iowa, to the mouth, and the operation of the Kansas River basin projects managed by the Corps.

Specific recommendations to prevent jeopardizing the continued existence of the listed birds and fish will be presented in the Service's draft biological opinion due in June. The biological information in the opinion will be submitted to a panel of scientists for review prior to its publication.